

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

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R 161425Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4612
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE-IN
CINCUSAFE-INCFR
HQ USEUCOM
CINCUSAREUR
COMSIXTHFLT
FOSIF ROTA

UNCLAS ANKARA 6290

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR
SUBJECT: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. PRIMIN DEMIREL AGAIN DISCUSSED THE AEGEAN DISPUTE IN
COMMENTS TO REPORTERS AUGUST 14. CONCERNING THE GOG
APPLICATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ),
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DEMIREL SAID: "WHAT WILL THE COURT LOOK AT? THEY TWO SIDES

SHOULD INDICATE THIS, (BUT) THE GREEKS HAVE GONE THERE UNILATERALLY. WE WILL ALL SOON SEE WHAT TREATMENT THEY WILL RECEIVE." DEMIREL CRITICIZED THE MILITARIZATION OF GREECE'S AEGEAN ISLANDS, SAYING: "IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE LAUSANNE AND PARIS TREATIES THAT THEY BE DEMILITARIZED. THE GREEKS HAVE VIOLATED BOTH THESE TREATIES AND ARMED THE ISLANDS...ONCE VIOLATION OF AGREEMENTS STARTS THERE IS NO POINT IN CONCLUDING NEW ONES, BECAUSE WHAT CAN YOU SOLVE WITH AN AGREEMENT, IF YOU ARE NOT OBSERVING EXISTING ONES?" DEMIREL DEFENDED THE FORMATION OF TURKEY'S AEGEAN ARMY AS A "REQUIREMENT OF ITS OWN SECURITY. TURKEY IS NOT AN AGGRESSIVE COUNTRY...SHALL WE ASK ANOTHER COUNTRY WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD ESTABLISH AN ARMY?"

2. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, IN WHAT WAS REPORTED TO BE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH TERCUMAN AUGUST 15, DESCRIBED HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER: "HE RECEIVED THIS (THE GOT POSITION) WITH UNDERSTANDING. HE GAVE ME INFORMATION ABOUT HOW HIS GREEK COUNTERPART APPROACHED THE MATTER. IT SEEMS THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN RUPTURED OVER THIS MATTER (THE SISMIK). SO OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS WANT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE DIALOGUE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF MEDIATION. WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR PROSPECTING. WE DO NOT FEAR NEGOTIATIONS." CAGLAYANGIL WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE DISPUTE COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH "HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL TALKS," WHEREAS "WE FIND THE PRESENT GREEK APPLICATION TO THE ICJ NEITHER LEGAL NOR SERIOUS. NOTHING COMES OUT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL EITHER. THE MATTER WILL BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS."

3. THE TURKISH PRESS ALSO FEATURED ARTICLES ON:

A. THE SOVIET DEMARCHE IN ATHENS AND ANKARA. PAPERS REPORTED THAT THE SOVIETS, IN PARALLEL DEMARCHES IN ANKARA AND ATHENS, HAD CALLED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITHOUT RECOURSE TO FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE AND THAT MOSCOW ATTACHED "IMPORTANCE TO FREE NAVIGATION" IN THE AEGEAN. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT ANKARA "WELCOMED" THE SOVIET APPROACH AS EVIDENCE OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE TURKISH POSITION. TERCUMAN EDITORIALIZED AUGUST 15 THAT THE SOVIET MOVE "FRUSTRATED" THE GREEK DESIRE TO HAVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALL FOR A STOP TO THE SISMIK'S ACTIVITIES

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AND "PUTS AN END TO THE GREEK DREAM OF MAKING THE AEGEAN A GREEK LAKE."

B. AUGUST 16 HURRIYET GAVE TOP PROMINENCE TO A REPORT THAT "GREEK DESTROYERS ARE ENTERING OUR FORBIDDEN AREAS" AND SUB-HEADLINED "PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN ALL GREEK CHURCHES THAT A GREEK-TURKISH WAR NOTH BREAK OUT."

C. ALL PAPERS REPORTED AUGUST 15 THAT THE GOT HAD AWARDED SHELL OIL EIGHT CONCESSION AREAS IN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN "SOUTH OF THE BAY OF BIGA". (BIGA IS THE ASIAN CANAKKALE PENINSULA, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY A "BAY" OF BIGA.)

D. AUGUST 15 TERCUMAN REPORTED FICTITIOUSLY THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TOLD FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE GREEK CLAIM TO A CONTINENTAL SHELF FOR ALL ITS AEGEAN ISLANDS WAS "RIDICULOUS AND LEGALLY INVALID." THE PAPER SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT GREECE AND TURKEY SHOULD NEGOTIATE WHICH GREEK ISLANDS WERE TO BE RECOGNIZED CONTINENTAL SHELVES.
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